

Bill No.: _____

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

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By: **Senator Elfreth**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Freedom of the Press Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Freedom
4 of the Press Day to commemorate the protected right of free press as identified in
5 the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and
6 generally relating to Freedom of the Press Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–413 through 7–417, respectively

10 to be Section 7–414 through 7–418, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–413

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

18 Preamble

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States recognized the critical importance of a Free Press to the nation’s democracy through the inclusion of the Right to a Free Press in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Other nations do not enjoy this right; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States armed forces have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect this right; and

WHEREAS, This right is threatened in the United States and around the world by acts of violence and dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, We honor on June 28 the loss of the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters of the Capital Gazette, who were murdered conducting work as journalists in Annapolis, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Annapolis community, Anne Arundel County, the State of Maryland, the United States of America, and citizens of the world mourn the loss of the lives of these journalists, as well as journalists both domestic and international, who have died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland desires that June 28 be recognized as Freedom of the Press Day in Maryland to memorialize the lives lost on June 28, 2018, at the Capital Gazette offices and to honor and protect all journalists serving a vital role in our State’s democratic process to inform residents of the happenings of their governments; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–413 through 7–417, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–414 through 7–418, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

1 **7-413.**

2 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE 28 AS FREEDOM OF THE**
3 **PRESS DAY.**

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
5 1, 2019.